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and lengthy faunal lists, especially works on deep-sea forms have appeared, as well as important anatomical papers. Important papers on the myriopods appeared in 1883, and of entomological literature there appeared important anatomical and morphological as well as palæontological works and papers, besides some faunal works of value. We shall in another place draw attention to recent discoveries which have not been quoted in our entomological notes. It is enough to take one's breath away to be told that the number of new genera described in 1883 was 1079, while the Arachnida have yet to be heard from.

As we have said in former years the Zoölogical Record is of immediate and pressing value to American students, and it is surprising that more copies are not taken by our working naturalists.

MILLSPAUGH'S AMERICAN MEDICINAL PLANTS.¹—This is a promising work now issuing in parts, each containing six colored lithographic plates, and from ten to fifteen pages of descriptive text. Upon each plate are shown the characteristic portions of some plant with dissections of the floral organs, or the fruits and seeds. The drawings are generally accurate and the coloring is good. Of course one need not look in a work like this for that degree of accuracy and finish which we are accustomed to see in the drawings by Isaac Sprague, but still they answer their purpose admirably, of enabling the student to identify the different medicinal plants of his flora.

Five parts (composing Fascicle 1) of this publication have already appeared, including thirty plates. The whole work will contain 180 plates, and it is the intention of the publishers to complete it within two years. The low price at which it is offered (five dollars per fascicle) places it within reach of everyone who is interested in the medicinal plants of the country. It will also be found an interesting and valuable addition to the library of the botanist.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

PHILOSOPHIC ZOÖLOGY BEFORE DARWIN.²—"The evolution of ideas," says the author in his preface, is much like that of "living beings." They ordinarily arise in an humble way, and lie concealed among older ideas, become confounded with them, but slowly they become differentiated, attain a certain strength, transform and die, after having engendered other ideas of a similar kind." The book is an extremely interesting and suggestive one as will be seen by the following titles of the chapters: first ideas on the place of animals in nature; Aristotle; the Roman period;

¹ *American Medicinal Plants*; an illustrated and descriptive guide to the American plants used as homœopathic remedies; their history, preparation, chemistry and physiological effects. By CHARLES F. MILLSPAUGH, M.D. Illustrated by the author. Boericke & Tafel, New York and Philadelphia.

² *La Philosophie Zoölogique avant Darwin*. Par EDMOND PERRIER. Bibliothèque scientifique internationale. XLV. Paris, 1884. 8vo, pp. 292.